



Winrock International

Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for Women in Extension and Research (EMPOWER) Program

3rd Quarterly Progress Report April - June 2003



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3rd Quarter Progress Report (April – June 2003)

1. Introduction

Winrock International has been implementing the Ethiopian Management of Participatory Opportunities for Women in Extension and Research (EMPOWER) program as a result of the tripartite agreement signed between the Ethiopian Government and USAID Ethiopia mission in January 1998. EMPOWER program complements both the mission's overall goal and the country's critical issue of enhancing food security. It directly provides information to the mission's Strategic Objective - *Household Production and Productivity Increased*. This is realized through EMPOWER program objectives:

- increased availability of domestically produced food crops and decreased post harvest losses and food spoilage;
- increased number of well-trained women extension agents, researchers, and advocates and policy makers to work with and for rural women; and
- increased knowledge of gender factors in agricultural policies, programs and practices.

EMPOWER program has three project components. Namely: On -Farm Agricultural Resource Management (ONFARM), Scholarship and Short- term Training. The first one operates in specific *weredas*, while the later two involve all zones and *weredas* in the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) and Amhara National Regional State (ANRS), where Winrock International implements its program.

During this reporting quarter major program activity focus given was on the preparation of early phase out strategy of EMPOWER program in Ethiopia as a result of the redirecting of funds to relief activities and cut down about three-fourth of its obligated budget by USAID/Ethiopia mission. So presently EMPOWER program is working on phasing out of its projects from SNNPRS and ANRS in September and December 2003, respectively. This and other major project component activities accomplished during the quarter under report are stated in the following project component and Management/administration activities.

2. Project Component Activity Accomplishments

2.1 ONFARM

ONFARM activities in the ANRS

Crop production and diversification: In Libokemekem *wereda*, in the quarter under report 297 demonstrations, 10 farmers level seed multiplication activities, and 11-soil fertility demonstrations have been conducted whereas in Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* to carry out such activities selection of varieties, and field lay out preparation were finalized. Moreover, the grafting of sweet orange scions (Washington Navel and Campbell Valencia Variety) on 30 sour

orange root- stocks has been carried out in the quarter under report in the latter *wereda*.

Income generation activities:

Fishery micro-enterprise: In Libokemkem *wereda*, members of the fishery micro enterprise use fish as the major diet for the family such that fish totally substitute legumes used for making sauce. As a result, about one-third of the daily fish produce of the Cooperative members is allocated for household consumption either through sale or given for free as labor compensation on the date of assignment for fishing. Thus in reporting quarter, the cooperative has earned Birr 499.15 income from the sale of 1,241.8 kg of fresh fish, while 65 kg fish was also used for household consumption.

Irrigation micro enterprise: Members 18 (9 female and 9 male) of the irrigation micro enterprise have produced 53,200 kg of onion, 7,200 kg of potato, 150 kg of maize, and 800 kg of tomato on a 6.5 hectare of land with the help of an irrigation pump provided by Winrock International. The cooperative has earned Birr 44,748.45 income from the sale of onion, while all of the harvested maize, and tomato, and 1,800 kg of onion was used for household consumption.

Credit provision and repayment: In the quarter under report, Libokemkem and Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* project sites have provided sheep credit for 24 and 47 women farmers, respectively, through service cooperatives. On the other hand, in Libokemkem *wereda* a total income of 6,353.70 birr has been earned from the sale of lamb (birr 2,585.00), honey (birr 246.00), eggs and chickens (birr 1,121.40) and vegetables (birr 2,401.0). In a similar manner, in Enebssie Sar Midir, 74 (69 male headed and 5 female headed) individual vegetable growers have earned 6095.40 birr income from the sale of 3767.80 kg of vegetables while the two Group vegetable growers have earned 843.70 birr from the sale of 398.70 kg of vegetables. Twenty-eight (8 married women and 20 male headed) farmers who had been engaged in fruit production in Enebssie Sar Midir have harvested 506 kg of papaya fruit and earned 690.00 birr income from the sale 322.5 kg of the same fruit while the sheep, poultry and beekeeping credit beneficiaries registered 7,387.00, 2,276.05 and 50 birr income, respectively.

Soil and Water Conservation: Following the on-the-job training offered in soil and water conservation for 150 farmers (22 females) at Michael Debir (Libokemekem), 4.905 km stone bunds, 2.675 km soil bunds and 3.61km stone-faced soil bund, totaling 11.19km, physical structures have been constructed by the trainees and their family members. Moreover, in the quarter under report, 486 m single-row post-brush dam with 754 m stone-check dam has been constructed and 620 *korch* (*Erythrina* sp) stem-cut were planted within a 1.5k m length gully. In constructing the physical structures, 154 (20 females) community members (790 in person days) have participated. On the other hand, in Enebssie Sar Mdir *wereda* 1.40 km gully and 3.9 km soil bund terrace have been constructed through the integration of the assistance of WI and community participation (258 females and 527 males). Moreover, in

Libokemkem *wereda*, 120,356 forage and multipurpose tree (12 types) and 5,486 papaya/solo variety/ seedlings, and in Enebsies Sar Midir, 351,223 multipurpose tree species (20 types) and 2 grass species have been raised.

Two semi-spherical model water-harvesting structures (60m³ capacity) (one in each *wereda*) have been constructed for demonstration purpose.

Appropriate Technology: During the quarter under report, in Enebsie Sar Midir, 10, 33, 15, 3, and 1 partner farmers have constructed grain storage devices (8 married women and 2 male headed), *Mirt* stove (28 married women, 5 female headed), fireless cookers (13 married women and 2 female headed), iceless cooler (3 married women), and shelf and local chair, respectively.

Capacity Building: In Enebsie Sar Midir *wereda*, soil and water conservation training was offered to 94 farmers during the quarter. The trainees have fully participated in the soil and water conservation activities carried out later on.

Farmers' field day: Farmers' field day for 64 farmers (22 females) has been organized at Angot Peasant Association (Libokemekem *wereda*) to increase their awareness about vegetables production and recipe preparation, family planning, HIV/AIDS and harmful traditional mal-practices.

Technology Dissemination: The project has been addressing significant number of farmers in both *weredas* through lateral diffusion. In Libokemem 425 farmers have been acquainted with different technologies, and out of these, 77 farmers (62 females) were able to adopt one or more technologies. In Enebsie Sar Midir, the number of non target farmers who were acquainted and adopted different technologies were 484 (312 females) and 19 (10 females), respectively.

ONFARM activities in the SNNPRS:

Crop production activities: In Yem, 104 farmers that have the required demonstration sites were selected to conduct both variety and fertility trials in the coming quarter. Moreover, 16 farmers (12 married women and 4 male headed) found in Saja and Gessi PAs in Yem have established 16 variety demonstration plots involving sweet potato with Bereda and Awassa varieties that have been tested for adaptation during the last cropping seasons. In addition, more than 2000 tuber pieces of Melkassa and Koka 28 varieties of the same root crop were distributed for 66 farmers (72% women) found in three PAs in the *wereda*.

In Gimbo, 92 farmers have prepared plots for crop demonstration activity. In addition, those farmers who participated in demonstration and adaptation trials of improved crop varieties last season were encouraged to plant seeds again this year. In this connection, 77 farmers (42 married women, 20 male headed and 15 female headed) planted crops like soybean, haricot bean and sweet potato on 1.73 ha of land. Farmers in Gimbo (106 married women, 21 male headed and 11 female headed) were also encouraged and they prepared compost for use on their vegetable gardens. With the weevil control demonstration carried out

among 377 farmers using botanical, 85% of the participating farmers were able to store their crops (mainly maize and haricot beans) for more than 5 months and sale them for better price. The rest could not benefit much since either pest attack had already started on (normally, they would sale the produce at cheaper price earlier than this time, normally just after harvest, for fear of spoilage by rodents and weevils) the field or they used the pesticide improperly.

Smallholder farmers' level seed multiplication: In Gimbo, among those farmers who got training in seed production, 16 (12 married women and 4 male headed) were engaged in the activity and they sold 12 quintals of haricot bean and 2 quintals of wheat for 2,299 birr. In Yem, the project office has conducted farmers and site selection to establish 10 seed multiplication sites in wheat, tef, and field pea and linseed crops. For this purpose, fertilizer and crop varieties like Tegegnech (field pea), DZ-01-974 (Tef), HAR 604 and HAR1685 (wheat) and Chilalo (linseed) were distributed to each PA to be planted in the coming quarter. The inputs were distributed to the participant farmers through credit and saving cooperatives on credit bases. The project office has assisted the cooperatives in supplying the inputs and preparing the required formats (agreement and credit forms). In the activity, the project office has involved the *wereda* office of agriculture and service cooperative promotion office aiming that these offices would continue with the activity after Winrock's withdrawal.

Income generation activities: In Yem, the five credit and saving cooperatives have collected existing members' saving and registration fees from new members. The five cooperatives have collected a total of birr 4,163.55 from saving, registration fee and interest of last year's credit scheme participants. In general, the total financial capacities of the five cooperatives have now reached 54,651.55 birr. As regards vegetable production, during the reporting period, group and individual vegetable growers found at Saja, Deri and Fofa PAs have harvested vegetables (specially tomato) and generated income from the sale of some of their produce. Hence, 32 farmers (29 married women) have produced 1,830 kg vegetables (tomato, cabbage, and carrot) and have got income of 1,137.80 birr. During this season, the problem of fungal disease, which occurred on tomato crop, has highly affected the production and income of farmers. Eight partner farmers who have been involved in poultry production in the previous quarters, have gained an income of 85 birr from the sale of eggs and chickens during the reporting period. Moreover, 5 farmers were able to hatch 29 improved chickens through natural brooding.

At Saja PA, 14 beekeepers have introduced bee colonies to their improved beehives constructed last quarter. Besides, 9 existing participants have harvested 31 kg of honey and generated income of 345 birr from the sale of 26 kg of honey. Moreover, sweet orange, papaya and banana seedlings distribution to target farmers found in Saja, Gessi and Asher PAs and establishing mother trees of these fruits at the *wereda* agriculture office's nursery sites (Saja and Gessi) for future use, were major tasks of the project staffs during the quarter. Thus, 521 papaya and 202 sweet orange seedlings were distributed to 165 farmers (65% female) following the checking of site selection and pit preparation of each farmer by the respective development agents. Furthermore, more than 2000 sour orange seedlings were transplanted

at 18 farmers' irrigable landholdings to be raised until the seedlings attain the recommended size for budding and grafting with sweet orange in the coming December by the *wereda* agriculture office experts and development agents.

In Gimbo, in order to encourage farmers and get them engaged in vegetable production activity, orientations and trainings were given repeatedly. In addition to this, 10 kg onion, 6 kg beetroot, 2 kg cabbage, 6 kg carrot and 3 kg tomato seeds were purchased by WI and donated to the 4 cooperatives for distribution to their members through sale. So in the quarter under report, 288 (197 married women, 66 male headed and 25 female headed) farmers bought the seeds and planted them. In the same way, 14 farmers (10 married women and 4 male headed) farmers planted sweet potato tubers on 2500 m² of land where as 8 farmers (7 women) planted improved potato variety on 700 m² plot of land. Among poultry production activity participants, 73 farmers (58 women) have earned birr 1,606 from the sale of 2,931 eggs and 43 chickens. In addition, 737 eggs and 4 chickens were consumed at home. Among sheep and goat credit beneficiaries, 8,690 birr was obtained from the sale of 59 sheep; 13 sheep were also born in the quarter. Under the same activity, 15,000.00 birr was given to the 4 cooperatives for use as a revolving fund for sheep and goat credit for women farmers. In addition, 1,577 avocado seedlings were distributed to 69 farmers (43 female) through sale. In the same way, 8,092 seedlings of 4 improved coffee varieties were raised and sold to 142 farmers (77 female).

Appropriate technology introduction: In Gimbo, 32 female farmers have constructed 29 *mirt* stoves, 8 raised mud seats, 5 beds, 5 iceless coolers and 21 local shelves following the training they received by WI development agents. In Yem, 58 farmers have constructed 13 improved mud stoves, 12 opsi stoves, 18 improved *enset* decorticators, 4 improved storage devices and 12 beehives. Moreover, 23 women farmers have built 5 shelves, 6 fireless cookers, 3 soak pits, 1 iceless cooler and 5 improved mud brick seats. These appropriate technologies were introduced to the target farmers in collaboration with the staffs of *wereda* agriculture office. Besides these, project staffs have also initiated farmers to visit the model rural mud brick house built at the project site. Hence, since the establishment of this rural mud brick model house, 563 farmers have visited it and have appreciated the house partitions, the materials used for construction (mud bricks) and appropriate facilities (improved stoves, shelves, seats, beds, iceless cooler etc.) constructed in it. Some visitors have also promised to do the facilities inside the house and even the house itself in the future.

Natural resource management activities: In Yem, during the quarter under report, the project office has also accomplished construction of 23.1 km physical soil conservation structures in 10 peasant associations of the *wereda*. As indicated, during this quarter the implementation was greater in comparison with the previous quarters' due to intensive awareness creation works and better collaboration created between the project office and stakeholders. In total, 19.18 km soil bunds, 3.9 km cutoff drains and 0.03 km cheek dams were constructed with active participation of 2,513 farmers (454 female). In addition, 2.75 km bund plantations with vetiver and elephant grasses have been implemented at Saja and Gessi PAs.

In Gimbo, 14 farmers (6 female) constructed 4.3 km soil bund on 5 ha of farmland. In addition, 31.6 km long bund was maintained at Yertechiti PA by 18 households (1 female). In addition, 3,986 different forest seedlings were raised and distributed to 206 farmers (119 female).

Capacity building: In Yem, training in **Soil and water conservation** was conducted for the 5th time for 79 farmers (34 female) drawn from 25 PAs of the *wereda*. The training was offered for three consecutive days (April 3-5/2003) at Fofa and Deri PAs. A trainer from *wereda* agriculture office has handled both practical and classroom sessions of the training. A second training in **agroforestry** was given for 16 development agents (6 female) and 4 supervisors (all male) of the *wereda* from April 7-9/2003. The trainer from *wereda* agriculture office has offered the training. As most development agents suggested, the training was quite interesting and practical as they covered important topics and practical implications.

In Gimbo, two trainings were given to 57 farmers (43 female) on vegetable production and seed production in collaboration with zone and *wereda* agriculture and natural resource development offices; the trainings took place between 12 and 14 June 2003.

Lateral acquaintance and diffusion of technologies: During the quarter under report, farmers in Yem were acquainted to and adopted technologies laterally. Technology acquaintance and diffusion was greater in soil conservation practices as compared to the other ONFARM activities. All in all, 2,695 farmers (1,344 female) have been acquainted with various ONFARM technologies and 313 (222 female) of them have adopted technologies that they have been acquainted with. In Gimbo, 230 farmers (78% women) were acquainted with different technologies during the quarter; of these, 173 (105 women) adopted one or more technologies through the purchase of 703 eggs, 6 chickens and 14 kg of haricot bean from target farmers through their own initiative.

Field visit: Yem project office has organized a one-day field visit program for Yem special *wereda* council representatives. The *wereda* council chairman (Ato Asaye Milky) and rural development office head (Ato Dawit G/Mariam) visited project activities being conducted in different PAs. The objectives of the field visit were to demonstrate the activities that Winrock has been implementing in the *wereda*, to have clear understanding of farmers' feeling towards Winrock's activities, and to create good working conditions with stakeholders. During the visit, soil conservation activities, fruit and nursery sites, income generation activities (sheep production, poultry, beekeeping, vegetable production), credit and saving cooperatives, introduced appropriate technologies (storages, mud stoves, enset decorticators and squeezers etc.) model house, water harvesting structures, meteorology facilities and other materials provided to *wereda* agriculture offices were seen. During the visit the government officials interviewed project beneficiary farmers and development agents on Winrock's activities. The officials have expressed their positive feeling as the visit helped them to have clear vision on Winrock's activities and to see great success of

Winrock that they didn't see before from any one else. A journalist from the *wereda* information office has attended the visit and interviewed project beneficiaries. As a result of the journalist report to the national radio agency, short summary of project activities and achievements have been aired by the Ethiopian radio news program.

2.2 Short-term Training

During this third quarter, much of the activities and short workshops focused in strengthening saving and credit associations and Task Forces working on major issues. Such activities during the quarter took place in Bekoji Training Center, Sheno Agricultural Research Institute, Gimbo project site, ANRS and Addis Ababa.

Short-term Training Activities in the SNNPRS:

Major activities/discussions conducted during the quarter included:

Participation of Women in Agricultural Research: A half-day discussion was conducted in Sheno Research Center and presentations were made by WI Task Forces working in the center. A total of 54 (6 female) researchers and experts participated in the discussion. The outcome of the field research as presented by the Task Forces indicated that female farmers in general were at a disadvantage and almost ignored in field research. Development agents mostly focus on male-headed farmers and women were always expected to get information through their husbands. Male-headed farmers also proved to have more of the available resources than female farmers. Issues were thoroughly discussed among the experts and feedback was provided to Task Force members. The final result of the field assessment will be compiled and presented on the Leadership For Change Follow-up workshop that will be held in the coming August. WI Country Representative and Program Coordinator has briefed researchers on the successes of WI and the Training Coordinator on Gender and Development.

Leadership for Change Refresher workshop: This was a one-day workshop conducted for professional women and men. The workshop was conducted on June 7, 2003 and a total of 13 (4 males) participants have taken part in the discussion.

Objectives of the refresher workshop:

- Promote experience sharing among participants
- Encourage participants to express their successes since the last training
- Review challenges faced by participants in making efforts to promote gender issues
- Discuss lessons learned in the influence of policies and programs related to gender

Activities: Briefing about WI activities and successes was made to show how much efforts have been made so far to build capacities of professionals, experts, decision-makers and farmers at large.

Individual Experience Sharing: Experiences, lessons learned and challenges expressed by participants as expressed by themselves included:

- Gained skills in public speaking which was not acquired before the training we have now tried to become visible.
- Got courage to speak in front of audience whereas shy before the interaction in the workshop.
- We never thought about ourselves before but since the training focused on self-improvement and promotion.
- Before the workshop we were sometimes dependent on men to forward our own ideas in meetings and conferences. Whereas to day we are encouraged and are able to express our views in meetings and public gathering at large.
- A participant from the Addis Ababa Regional Education Bureau explained LFC training has inspired her to build confidence and take up responsibilities that were traditionally meant for males only. Assumed a position of Technical, Vocational and Education Department Head.
- Other groups also briefed that they have worked as Task Forces in the areas of:
 - Compiling statistical facts on female participation in education, health, agriculture etc.
 - On gender disaggregated data, in budgeting and planning for economic development.
 - A manual on gender for trainers is also completed by one of the male participants and is ready for printing.
 - Videos were documented; leaflets and brochures were prepared for women entrepreneurs and those engaged in micro-enterprise by one of the participants from the MOT and Industry.

Issues were discussed in detail and participants have shared the determination they made to promote themselves and to orient others to advocate for gender.

Follow-up activity at Bekoji Training College: This was a two-day activity conducted from June 13-14/2003. The activity was divided into two. The first was a one-day discussion with Task Force members and some 44 (4 males) students. In this discussion, WI Task Force members presented the assessment they made on the status and participation of female students in the college. The findings have shown that female students have in general very low information on gender and they lacked also the necessary support in the academic environment. In the discussion, it was learnt that female students lack the orientation necessary to cop with the college environment and as a result most fail in the semester results. Problem of harassment was also serious and female students never felt safe outside the campus. The Dean of the college, the Administrator and members of the staff said that they would take the necessary action to minimize the problem. The second day discussion was with the staff members of the college. Some 12 (4 females) staff members participated in the discussion on Gender, Assertiveness and Participatory Training Methodologies.

Strengthening Saving and Credit Associations: A three days workshop was conducted in Gimbo for members of saving and credit units and experts. A total of 35 (12 males) people participated in the workshop conducted from June 25-27/2003. The focus of the discussion was on – Leadership and management issues, Financial- management, credit, banking and market assessment. New skills and practices were shared and responsibilities of strengthening these units were given to the Wereda Council, Cooperative office and the office of the Women Affairs.

Short-term Training Activities in the ANRS:

Saving and Credit: In Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda* the Gunaguna saving unit (18MH, 25FH, 14 MW) has deposited 1325.00 birr and are in the process of transforming into legal saving and credit cooperative; besides this, 13 WI-sponsored credit beneficiaries have started their personal saving and have opened saving account in Amhara Credit and Saving Institute (ACSI). Moreover, in the quarter under report, two new saving groups were organized and have saved 867.00 Birr in Libokemkem while the former seven groups have also saved Birr 1613.00.

Gender and cultural barriers: In Enebssie Sar Midir *wereda*, former trainees on “gender and cultural barriers” have taught 472 farmers (253 female) on importance of family planning and vaccination, and detrimental effects of female genital mutilation. As a result, 10 mothers and 5 children had taken vaccination.

Management leadership for rural women leaders: Trained women farmers (4) in “management and leadership” have conducted awareness raising discussion with 445 farmers (191 females) on concepts of human right, the right of women children to go to schools, HIV/AIDS and related diseases, the possibility of women to assume leadership position, etc. Consequently, the dropout girls have started going back to school.

2.3 Scholarship

Completion of studies: Three scholars who have been studying for the B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees at the Philippines Universities have completed their studies in the fields of Home Science, Animal Science (Animal Nutrition) and Fishery (Aquaculture). In addition, two scholars who have been studying for the B.Sc. degrees in the field of Horticulture at Jimma University have completed their studies during the reporting period.

Backstopping visit of WI sponsored scholars: The WI sponsored scholars of Alemaya University who are undertaking Supervised Extension Project (SEP) were visited during the reporting period. Financial disbursement and utilization appeared to be the major bottleneck for proper and timely undertaking of the SEP fieldworks. The Bureau of Agriculture (BoA) had sent a copy of the guidelines to each *wereda*. In spite of the efforts made to resolve this problem through developing guidelines and discussions, etc. It persisted every year. In

order to resolve the problem, a series of discussions were held with respective Heads of Wereda Finance, Rural Development, local supervisors and the scholars. The SEP fund utilization and disbursement-concept and practices were explained based on the financial guidelines developed jointly and the approved SEP budget frameworks. The same was communicated to the Regional BOA for follow-up and action.

Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs): Amendment to the original MoUs was prepared and signed with the Bureau of Agriculture (BOA), SNNPRS for scholarship activities that are financed by Lucas Matching Grant and the left over project fund available at the BOA's account.

Senior research Undertaking: Two B.Sc. degree scholars who have been studying at Jimma University have carried out the senior research projects on the following topics:

- Effect of Inter-Row and Intra Row Spacing on Yield Components of Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) by Askale Yifru
- Effect of Different Planting Positions of Vine Cutting on Establishment of Sweet Potato (*Ipomea batatas* L.) by Lemlem T/Medhine.

The Ph.D. degree scholar who has been studying at the University of Philippines, Deliman has commenced the fieldwork of her research on the topic "The role of Home Economists in HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care". Her supervisor also came to guide and support her during the start-up of the project.

Dutch Scholarship: Two scholars have commenced their studies at Wageningen University, the Netherlands during the reporting period.

GLOBE Ph.D. scholarship: The two GLOBE scholars have got admission at University of Colombia and Alberta to start their Ph.D. studies in Aug/Sept 2003.

Partnership contributions: Two of WI key partners- Debu University, Awassa College of Agriculture and Bureau of Agriculture, SNNPRS have estimated their contributions to the scholarship program to be worth of birr 411,188.50 and 1,419,220 respectively.

2.4 Monitoring and Evaluation

Phasing over committee: Yem Special wereda project phasing over committee carried out the regular meetings and taken serious steps towards strengthening sustainability of the project activities.

Documentation: The title and abstracts of the scholars' research undertaking were being compiled during the reporting period.

EMPOWER program result report: Based on the requests from WI Head Quarter a summary of EMPOWER program achievements and results were prepared and reported in the form of tables.

2.5 Management/Administration activities

2.5.1 Major administrative activities accomplished

- Field activity reports were submitted to headquarter on a timely basis and funds released as requested. Several trip arrangements were made during the quarter for various component activities.
- Insurance cover premium due was paid and renewed.
- Provided field backstopping visit and discussed preliminary project close-up and other administrative issues in both regions project site and at Addis Office.
- **Completion of 2002 staff evaluation and develop PPO for 2003:** During the quarter under report employees' job performance evaluation for the year 2002 have been completed and PPOs for the next reporting year have been also developed and submitted to concerned person.

2.5.2 Other activities

Almost all activities planned for this reporting quarter under this section have been accomplished, with the exception of - hiring a consultant for the socio-economic impact of HIV/AIDS study, preparation of booklet, and facilitation of the implementation of EMPOWER program USAID evaluation. These activities were cancelled as a result of the budget cut down and early phase out plan of EMPOWER program. Those other activities accomplished during the quarter under report are indicated below.

EMPOWER program obligated budget cut down and phasing out plan: During this reporting quarter Mr. Chris Kopp, EMPOWER program Budget Manager made a backstopping visit to Ethiopia. The main objectives of his trip were to discuss on EMPOWER program obligated budget with Mr. John McMahon, Chief of Agriculture and Natural Resources Office, USAID/Ethiopia mission, discuss phasing out strategy with EMPOWER staff members and visit project sites in the south. The meeting with Mr. McMahon, Mr. Chris Kopp and Dr. Wudnesh Hailu, WI/EMPOWER program Country Representative and Program Coordinator (CR/PC) mainly focused on the allocated budget of EMPOWER program and phasing out of the program. Mr. McMahon informed us that the obligated budget of US Dollar 925,594 was going to be reduced to about \$ 600,000, due to the reduction of agricultural development program budget by the mission and redirecting of the funds to relief activities in Ethiopia. In line with this Mr. Kopp called EMPOWER staff meeting and advised that the component coordinators work on cutting down some of the planned activities and work on strategies to phase out project activities in December 2003.

However, this was changed again and got an official letter from Mr. McMahon that the obligated budget request was further cut down to almost a fourth (US Dollar 240,000) of the initial promised budget. As a result Winrock is planning now to phase out its program in the South and Amhara in September and December 2003, respectively.

Drafting EMPOWER program strategy: WI/EMPOWER program senior staff members met during this quarter under report and drafted a proposal of phase out strategy in accordance to WI field book guideline of closing of a project for Yem special *wereda* and Gimbo *wereda* project sites. It also suggests to keep three staff members in each project site of the south and leave the office open until December 31, 2003, so that the program would be able to collect data, make impact assessment, look for new project collaboration opportunities etc.

A manual to assist training on Saving/Credit and Cooperative was also compiled by the Training Coordinator.

3. Networking and Participation in Conferences/Meetings

WI/EMPOWER program staff members are actively involved in networking, promoting visibility of their organization and in actively participating in important regional and national forums, besides fulfilling their routine activities. Papers and distinguished speeches delivered in the various conferences and forums participated particularly by the CR/PC are placed in WI resource material collections of Addis Ababa office for use as resource materials and share of experiences with the other staff members. Some of the major conferences/workshops and forums attended during this reporting quarter are stated below.

International Livestock Research Institute (April 10, 2003): The Institute invited WI RC/PC to attend the Annual Peter Doherty Distinguished Lecture occasion held in ILRI campus here in Addis Ababa. Dr. K.Y Ameako, Executive Secretary of the United Economic Commission for Africa, delivered Lecture on "Harnessing Technologies for Sustainable Development in Africa".

Gender policy dialog (April 11, 2003): Forum for Social Studies organizes bimonthly gender related policy dialog. As one of the panelists in this forum, the CR/CP represented WI in the panel discussions of gender and social development, gender and education, gender and information and communication technologies held during this reporting quarter.

Participation in CRDA and House of Representative joint seminar (May 12, 2003): The House of Peoples Representatives together with the CRDA invited NGOs for consultation that leads towards the development of modalities for effective interaction between the parliament and CSO/NGOs in Ethiopia. This interaction is aimed at the sharing and deepening of democracy and the promotion of good governance. WI was represented by its CR/PC in this seminar.

Furthermore, various CRDA membership meetings and conferences were attended. The major ones were on "Millennium Development Goals in Central and Eastern Africa; Code of Conduct for NGO in Ethiopia, and election of Code of Observance Committee, and bringing together NGOs and regional cooperative promotion and familiarization with the cooperative proclamation No. 147/98".

Workshop participation towards sustainable food security in Ethiopian: Integrating the agri - food chain (May 15,16, 2003): The Program Coordinator and Agriculture Coordinator attended a two days workshop (May 15-16, 2003) organized in Addis Ababa by Ethiopian Development Research Institute and IFPRI Vision 2020 under the title "Towards Sustainable Food Security in Ethiopia: Integrating the Agri-Food Chain in Ethiopia". The workshop, which was attended, by policy makers, researchers, development workers, NGOs and other relevant bodies discussed various issues including food security, export commodities and natural resources.

Launching of National Coalition for Women Against HIV/AIDS (June 18, 2003): Prominent Ethiopian women ministers and senior female leaders set the National Coalition for Women Against HIV/AIDS on June 18, 2003. This was launched officially in the presence of H. E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and H.E. President Girma W/Giorgis, where they made Keynote address and Concluding Remarks, respectively. WI CR/PC was invited to participate in this important occasion, where the Government of Ethiopia has taken serious steps and called others to join in combating HIV/AIDS in country.

USAID/Ethiopia mission round table discussion on priority concern issues related to Ethiopia's chronic food insecurity (June 20, 2003): USAID/Ethiopia mission organized a round table discussion with USAID funded NGOs in Ethiopia and a team who came from USA. The objectives of the meeting were to discussion on how to address the issue food insecurity and weak economy in Ethiopia. The discussion was focused on role of the private sector and increasing investment, how are changes and improvements measured, and which market system is broken? WI was represented by its CR/PC in the round table discussion.

Meeting with the First Secretary for Agriculture and Food Security of the Dutch Embassy (June 26, 2003): WI CR/PC briefed the First Secretary and his staff about WI/ EMPOWER program in Ethiopia and discussed on possibilities of project collaboration during this quarter under report. The meeting was fruitful and the First Secretary noted that he will contact the CR/PC back again for further discussion.

SG 2000 and MONSANTO Workshop: On June 19, 2003, the Agriculture Coordinator attended a one day workshop organized by SG 2000 and MONSANTO to discuss the results of ONFARM conservation tillage trials conducted in various parts of the country as well as research findings pertaining to the same. In addition to the discussion made on the results, ideas were exchanges on why the conservation tillage technology has not been adopted by farmers as expected, and what the future emphasis should be.

Backstopping visit: WI ONFARM Director and Regional Representative to West Africa- Dr. Pierre Antoine- paid a working visit to the two project sites in the ANRS between June 10 and 17, 2003. He was accompanied by the EMPOWER program Agriculture Coordinator. Besides talking to project staff and farmers, he saw natural resource conservation activities and appropriate technology introductions being implemented in both sites.

Participation in M.Sc thesis defense exam at Alemaya University: The Agriculture Coordinator participated in M.Sc thesis defense exam conducted on May 30 and 31, 2003 at Alemaya University as external examiner of three candidates.

Net working on Gender and Decision Making: The Training Coordinator participated in the consultative meeting on 'Net working on Gender and Decision Making organized by IIRR Ethiopia.

Gender Forum in CRDA: The Training Coordinator also chaired and attended various meetings of the Gender Forum in CRDA.

4. Planned activities for the Next Reporting Quarter (July - September 2003)

- Preparation of fourth quarterly progress and annual reports.
- Preparation of project end report.
- Establish crop demonstrations.
- Conduct field days and cross visits.
- Conduct forest and forage seedling distributions.
- Conduct bund plantations.
- Multipurpose tree seedling distribution
- Introduce appropriate technologies.
- Conduct bee-keeping activities.
- Conduct ONFARM training.
- Conduct strengthening activities for cooperative credit and saving.
- Conduct PRA Follow-up training in Gondar
- Conduct Gender community PRA/days discussion in Yem and Gimbo
- Conduct LFC Follow up workshop
- Strengthen the phasing over committees through initiation of regular meetings and experience sharing forum.
- Facilitate the internal evaluation /impact assessment for Yem and Gimbo projects.
- Attend scholars' graduation ceremony.
- As appropriate, notify project staff of the date that the project and their current employment will end. Notify staff about leave policy and use of vacation time and other paid leave.
- Prepare monthly field reports and submits it to HQ on a timely manner.
- Prepare annual and quarterly budget performance by each *wereda* and component.
- Visit project site SNNPRS/ANRS for year-end inventory and close up.

- Review the budget for the project's remaining months. Ensure that all closeout costs are provided for. Make sure that expenditures must be incurred and recorded prior to the project ending date.
- Remind staff of all termination benefits due to them and procedures. Advise national staff of their balance of vacation and other leave.
- Inventory all project furniture and equipment used by field staff offices before staff member departs.
- Prepare WIE books of accounts for audit purpose.